

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 L-03 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02
EB-07 XMB-02 /064 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:DCPIERCE/BTK
APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS
-----251410Z 037346 /47

R 251150Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
INFO CINCLANT
NAVFAC BARBADOS
DOD WASHDC
CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 120403

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, EAID, PDIP, BB

SUBJECT: BARBADIAN MINISTER A. W. SYMMONDS CALL ON
MR. LUERS

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REF: BRIDGETOWN 1081

1. SUMMARY. MINEXTAFF PERMSEC ALGERNON W. SYMMONDS
CALLED ON ARA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM UERS
TO SAY THE GOB WOULD NOT DECIDE ON FUTURE U.S. USE OF
THE NAVFAC UNTIL IT HAD SETTLED WITH THE US THE ISSUE
OF RETROACTIVE RENT UNDER THE PRESENT AGREEMENT. MR.
LUERS MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE HAVE VERY SERIOUS PROBLEMS
WITH RETROACTIVE RENT. SYMMONDS REITERATED GOB REQUESTS
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FOR

MESSAGE FROM FORMIN FORDE THAT GOB WOULD NOT DECIDE ON SUITABILITY OF FUTURE US PRESENCE UNTIL IT HAD "WRAPPED UP" THE ISSUE OF COMPENSATION FOR US "OCCUPATION" SINCE 1961. HE STRESSED IT WAS POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIS GOVERNMENT TO DO OTHERWISE.

3. SYMMONDS REITERATED THE GOB POSITION (REFTEL) THAT RENT "COULD BE PAYABLE" UNDER THE 1961 AGREEMENT AND THAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAD RECEIVED A LUMP-SUM PAYMENT OR TURN-BACK OF IMPORTANT DEVELOPED LANDS IN 1961, WHILE BARBADOS GOT NOTHING. HE ASSERTED THE US DID NOT HAVE A LEGAL PROBLEM WITH RETROACTIVE RENT SINCE WE HAD "BACKED DOWN" FROM THAT POSITION. HE SAID THE AIDE-MEMOIRE WITH THE FUTURE RENT OFFER "WAS NOT CONSIDERED AT ALL", AND THAT THE AMOUNT OFFERED WAS "NOWHERE NEAR WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD IN MIND".

4. MR. LUERS POINTED OUT THAT WE DID IN FACT HAVE STATUTORY PROBLEMS WITH RETROACTIVE RENT PAYMENT, SINCE THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT DID NOT PROVIDE FOR IT. HE SAID WE WOULD ALSO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE PRECEDENT THIS MIGHT CREATE, AND SAID HE DID NOT THINK THE FACILITY WAS ALL THAT IMPORTANT TO DOD. SYMMONDS RESPONDED THAT HIS "POLITICAL MASTERS" DID NOT BELIEVE WE HAD TOLD THEM ALL WE ARE DOING AT THE FACILITY, AND THAT IT MUST BE RATHER IMPORTANT.

5. BILATERAL AID. SYMMONDS SAID THE GOB UNDERSTOOD USG RELUCTANCE TO TIE AID TO BASES, AND NOTED INCREASED US INTEREST IN THE CARIBBEAN. HE SAID THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE GOB WAS INTERESTED IN BARBADOS FIRST, NOT IN ITS CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS, AND NOT IN MONEY FUNNELED THROUGH THE CDB OR THE IADB. HE SAID JAMAICA HAD GOTTEN ITSELF INTO TROUBLE THROUGH ITS OWN POLITICAL DECISIONS, AND NOW THE US IS MOVING TO GIVE IT ASSISTANCE. HE SAID BARBADOS WANTED HELP WITHOUT HAVING TO GO THROUGH THE VERY SERIOUS POLITICAL/SOCIAL CHANGES NOW TROUBLING JAMAICA.

HE HOPED ADAMS WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE PRESIDENT CARTER IN LATE SEPTEMBER DURING A TRIP TO WASHINGTON FOR AN IMF MEETING. MR. LUERS SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR JACKMAN ON MAY 16 THAT HE WOULD WELCOME SUCH A MEETING, AND HE INDICATED ARA WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH A

REQUEST FOR AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH SPECIFIC DATES. CHARGE ORLANDO MARVILLE CONFIRMED THE DATES AS SEPTEMBER 23 THROUGH OCTOBER 3, WITH A PREFERENCE FOR EITHER SEPTEMBER 23 OR OCTOBER 3, SINCE THE IMF MEETINGS WOULD TAKE PLACE SEPTEMBER 26-30. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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